

transport is often referred to as "The Middle Passage." During this transition, many Africans suffered abuses of rape and perished as a result of torture, malnutrition, disease, and resistance. If these individuals survived the trip, their fate was a life of slavery.

I recently visited Ghana. During this trip, I toured the former slave dungeon, Cape Coast Castle. I also had the opportunity to stand in the "Door of No Return" where captives were held with little light, water, and absolutely no toilet facilities. Over 125 million West Africans died during the Middle Passage, and more than one-third of the people captured died within the first 3 years of their life on a plantation. The importance of this legislation lies in the fact that the slave trade and the legacy of slavery continue to have a profound impact on social and economic disparity, hatred, bias, racism, and discrimination. This legislation underscores the fact that the legacy of the slave trade continues to affect people of African descent today. One of the key purposes of this act is to ensure a suitable national observance of the 200th anniversary of the end of the transatlantic slave trade. By sponsoring and supporting commemorative programs, we raise awareness of the transatlantic slave trade and its effects, as well as recognize the experiences of all people during this period in history. I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3432 in creating this commission that would not only celebrate the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, but also educate citizens regarding a significant part of our Nation's history.

RECOGNIZING THE 2007 NATIONAL LEAGUE CENTRAL CHAMPION CHICAGO CUBS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding season put together by the 2007 Chicago Cubs. Last week, my hometown Cubs clinched the National League Central title with a regular season record of 85–77, and tonight they head to Phoenix to take on the National League West Champions, the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Led by Manager Lou Piniella, the Cubs stormed back from an 8½ game deficit to edge out the Milwaukee Brewers for the division title, their first since 2003. In just Piniella's first season at the helm, the Cubs had the biggest win increase in the Majors from last season to this season, winning 19 more games than in 2006.

In a year marked by adversity, the Cubs overcame injuries, some internal strife, and the possible sale of the team to band together with the right blend of strong veterans like Derrek Lee and Aramis Ramirez, young players like Ryan Theriot and Carlos Marmol, and key offseason acquisitions Alfonso Soriano, Mark DeRosa, and Ted Lilly.

I proudly represent Wrigley Field in the Fifth Congressional District, and I am excited to see the return of postseason baseball to the Northside of Chicago.

Carlos Zambrano will set the tone tonight in game one in Arizona, and Rich Hill and Ted Lilly will take the ball after that to lead our Cubbies to victory in the NLDS.

Congratulations are in order to each and every player, coach, and employee of the Chicago Cubs. I wish them all the best of luck against the Diamondbacks, and I look forward to watching them do their best to reverse the curse of the billy goat.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION TO DISAPPROVE USDA RULE ON CANADIAN CATTLE IMPORTATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, on September 18, USDA Issued a final rule that will permit the importation of live Canadian cattle into the U.S. provided they are born after a date determined by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to be the date of effective enforcement of a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban in Canada. Expanding imports of Canadian livestock and beef is likely to have serious repercussions for the American cattle industry and I, along with my colleague DENNIS REHBERG, are introducing this resolution to disapprove that rule.

Over the past several years, Canada has discovered no fewer than 11 cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, BSE, including many that have occurred in cattle born after that country was purported to have implemented a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban. Given this fact, it is clear that Canada has not taken the necessary steps to protect its herd from the spread of BSE and that a feed-ban date should not be the trigger for allowing Canadian beef into the U.S. Increasing U.S. imports of Canadian cattle and beef at this critical time would have significant negative impact on the economic well-being of American cattle producers, and could seriously disrupt our efforts to expand U.S. beef exports overseas.

Expanding Canadian cattle imports increases the possibility that a future case of BSE in a Canadian animal may be found in the United States. Five of Canada's BSE cases occurred in cattle born after March 1, 1999, the date that appeared in the proposed rule as an appropriate age trigger for importation eligibility. There is a very real possibility that USDA's proposal would lead to the importation of additional BSE-infected animals from Canada, which would destroy years of hard work by the American cattle industry, the administration, and Congress to restore the confidence of our trading partners in the safety of American beef.

Given the uncertainty still surrounding the health of the Canadian cattle herd and the drastic negative repercussions that could befall U.S. cattle producers if this increased trade fosters an occurrence of increased BSE outbreaks in this country, I introduce this resolution today and urge my colleagues to support its prompt passage.

RECOGNIZING THE NAVY UDT-SEAL MUSEUM IN FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, AS THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NAVY SEALS AND THEIR PREDECESSORS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of a resolution to recognize the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida as the official national museum of Navy SEALs and their predecessors. As an original cosponsor of this legislation, I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts of my good friend from Florida, Congressman TIM MAHONEY, for introducing this important legislation and the House Leadership for bringing it before the House floor for a vote.

The Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, located adjacent to the District I represent, is in close proximity to the birthplace of the World War II underwater demolition teams or the "Navy Frogmen." These "Navy Frogmen" have since evolved into the U.S. Navy SEALs, one of the most elite and distinguished fighting forces in the entire world. This museum is currently the only one of its kind in the world that honors and preserves the Navy SEALs legacy. The museum's mission is essential, and through its daily work to educate the public, continues to recognize the contributions of the brave men and women serving our Nation.

The Navy SEALs are an elite fighting team that have operated in almost every environment known to man—from humid jungles to space stations orbiting the Earth. We owe it to these brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day for the United States' democracy our sincerest gratitude and respect. We owe it to them to memorialize their contributions and their legacy on a national scale.

Since 1985, the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum has been at the forefront of educating our Nation on the historical importance of these special forces. The museum currently contains thousands of artifacts, declassified documents, weapons, and photographs that are a true testament to the courageous exploits of the Navy SEALs and their predecessors.

This legislation before us today would make the museum the Official National Museum for Navy SEALs in the United States. I urge a swift passage of this significant legislation to properly recognize and memorialize the heroic acts of past and present United States Navy SEALs.

TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO MOORE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Antonio Moore, a 16-year-old student at Mt. Vernon Township High School in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Antonio was chosen as one of the 401 athletes for Team USA that will be competing in the Special Olympics World Summer Games in China. While in China, Antonio will compete in the 400 meter run, shot put and 4 × 400 meter run.

I also rise to honor the organization that makes Olympic dreams like Antonio's a reality. The Special Olympics currently serves over 2.5 million athletes with intellectual disabilities worldwide. Their volunteerism and commitment to helping people with disabilities is truly remarkable.

I am pleased to congratulate Antonio on his success. I wish him, and all of Team USA, the best as they represent their country.

HONORING THE SEAGO FAMILY AND SEAGOVILLE, TEXAS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the members of the Seago Family as they gather in Seagoville, Texas, for their annual family reunion.

The Seago family has had a long history in the United States. The family's presence in the United States was first recorded in 1740, when John Seago married Margaret Birmingham at St. Luke's Parish in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. From there the family moved to North Carolina and their descendants spread all over the country.

The city of Seagoville, Texas was founded in the 1870's by a descendant of John and Margaret Seago, Tillman Kimsey "T.K." Seago. He opened a general store in 1876, which attracted people to the area. A small community formed there and later that year it became known as Seago. In 1910, the United States Postal Service changed the name of the town to Seagoville.

Each year the Seago family hosts an annual family reunion, which they have done for over twenty years. This year the event is particularly important because the family will be gathering for the first time in the city that was named for one of the ancestors, Seagoville, Texas. Family members will travel from every corner of this great nation to attend. The festivities begin on Thursday, as members start arriving, and continue through Sunday, when they begin to make their journeys home. The reunion will coincide with SeagoFest, a festival held each year in Seagoville.

Madam Speaker, as the Representative of the City of Seagoville, it is my pleasure to recognize the Seago Family for over 250 years in America and the City of Seagoville for the many contributions it makes to the Fifth District, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, due to the passing of my father, on Tuesday, October 2, 2007

I missed rollcall votes nos. 927 through 931. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H.R. 3087 and "yea" on H. Res. 635, H. Con. Res. 203, H.R. 2828, and H. Con. Res. 200.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION WINNERS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dan and Luanne Hurst, the 2007 Angels in Adoption award winners from the 5th Congressional District of Florida.

Dan and Luanne decided to adopt their first child, Matthew, while they were working as college professors.

When Matthew's birth mother became pregnant again, she contacted the Hursts about their interest in adopting the second boy, so that the brothers could grow up in the same home.

Recognizing the importance of keeping the boys together as a family, the Hursts soon welcomed a second son, Jesse, into their lives.

As proud adoptive parents, the Hursts have also used their expertise in English education to help Matthew with the challenges of dyslexia.

Today Luanne home schools both children while working part time teaching evening college classes.

One of the most difficult challenges facing adoption agencies is to keep siblings together, yet people like Dan and Luanne show us that this is not an impossible task.

Please join me in recognizing the Hursts and all families that welcome adopted children into their homes, giving them the love and support they need to thrive.

CONGRATULATING BURTON AND NELLIE SEARLES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Burton and Nellie Searles for receiving the "Foster Parents of the Year" award.

This award is given to one family each year by the Texas Council of Child Welfare Board. On September 20, 2007, the Searles received the award at the 29th Annual Cheerleaders for Texas Children ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Searles have been fostering children for 18 years. The couple, who will be married 49 years in February of 2008, have fostered a total of 77 children in their home. In addition to three children of their own, they have also adopted a child.

Mr. and Mrs. Searles began taking care of basic children but then changed their foster care licenses to take care of special needs children. The Searles say that they love taking care of special needs children because of the challenge. The Searles also plan on continuing care for foster children for many years to come.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Searles for their award. I thank them for their devotion and dedication to helping foster children. I am very proud and honored to represent them in the 26th District of Texas.

HONORING ABNER W. DARBY OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Abner W. Darby of Lynn, Massachusetts. Abner Darby was born and raised in Austin, Texas, where he was a star athlete excelling in football and track and field. He went on to attend Prairie View University before he honorably served the country as a member of the United States Army.

Although Abner was a Master Mechanic; owned and operated two gas stations in Lynn; and served as a housing manager for the Lynn Housing Authority, Mr. Darby will best be remembered for the time he spent as Executive Director of the Community Minority Cultural Center (CMCC). The CMCC provided Mr. Darby with the vehicle through which he affected positive change in the community and where he did the work that was his passion.

Abner Darby dedicated his life to making the lives of those around him better. Having personally experienced the pains of segregation, Abner worked tirelessly to erase discrimination and open doors and create equal access and equal opportunity for all people regardless of race, creed or national origin. He did so locally, statewide and nationally. Through his work at the CMCC, Abner Darby served as a bridge between Lynn's increasingly diverse community and the city's traditional, established institutions. For many, the first steps on the ladder of opportunity were taken on Abner Darby's back.

Abner fought diligently to ensure that the benefits of economic development and employment opportunities were shared by all. He spearheaded efforts for the recruitment and training for Civil Service positions that led to the hiring of minority firefighters and police officers. Under his leadership, the CMCC offered job fairs, computer training, after school programs and ESL classes, and it also sponsored art exhibitions, cultural celebrations and workshops so the diverse communities could develop a better understanding and appreciation for one another. Without Abner's efforts, some would have remained culturally, economically and educationally deprived.

There was only one thing that Abner Darby could not do. When asked to do something, Abner could never say no. More importantly, when he promised something, he always delivered. Abner Darby is a loyal, hard working and well-respected man. He is gifted with an infectious laugh, contagious enthusiasm and a warm, embracing personality that moves others to follow him.

Tonight in Lynn, Abner Darby's family, friends, neighbors and colleagues will gather to salute and offer thanks to a man who has made an indelible mark on the city and helped its residents in countless ways. It is a most appropriate and deserving recognition for someone who has given so much of himself to his community.